

FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION REPORT ON ONE
 GERMAN ARMY INTERCEPT PW.

Name : REUELSDORFF, Hermann.
 Rank : Gefreiter.
 Unit : 29 PG Div Intercept Sec (RENATE)
 Id No. : Not known.
 F.P. No. : 30961 c. (2 Coy, 29 Sigs Bn).
 Home Address : 10 Steuernagelstrasse, FRANKFURT/MAIN.
 Deserted : 23 Apr 45, near MODENA.
 Secret No. : M45/544
 Interrogated : CSDIC, CMF, 17 May 45.

This report contains information on German Army Intercept units in the BALKANS and ITALY, work on British RT traffic in ITALY and on CETNIK and TITO oiphers, and Personalities.

1. PREAMBLE

PW is a 26 year old economics student, who has served in Intercept since Sep 40. He claims to be an anti-Nazi, and to have provided British and Yugoslav Intelligence Services with useful information during his career in the German Army. He seems to be an opportunist with an eye to the main chance.

Reliability: Fair.

(Interrogated by A.G.B. and A.G.)

2. HISTORY and MOVEMENTS.

May 40 After six months study of economics at the SORBONNE PW was called up and posted to 9 Sigs Training Depot, then went on an officers' training course.

Sep 40 Posted to Intercept HQ SOUTH-EAST (Kommandeur Nachrichtenaufklaerung SUEB-OST), later 4 Intercept HQ. Trained as interpreter, oipher clerk and cryptographer.

Nearly 41 Posted to Evaluation Section of Intercept HQ SOUTH-EAST, then in ATHENS.

Summer 42 Became reserve officer candidate. Sent to BELGRADE with a new unit, WOLLNY Intercept Pl, formed to deal with CETNIK and TITO traffic. This Pl came directly under the OKH.

Oct 43 Sentenced to nine months imprisonment and demoted from WO to Pte. Priso sentence suspended till end of war.

Nov 43 Posted to 964 short-range Intercept Coy, from which he was detached to Ic. HQ 2 Panzer Army in JUGOSLAVIA, where he

assisted the Intercept LO (Verbindungsoffizier fuer Nachrichtenaufklaerung).

Jan 44 Arrested for suspected complicity in a friend's desertion, and sentenced to death. The sentence was subsequently quashed for lack of evidence.

Jul 44 Transferred to Intercept Sec of 29 PG Div in ITALY.

23 Apr 45 Deserted to Allied troops.

3. ORGANISATION AND WORKING METHODS OF GERMAN INTERCEPT UNITS.

a) 4 Intercept HQ.

i) History.

This HQ was created in FRANKFURT/MAIN in Apr 40 and attached to the intercept HQ of Army Group B during the French campaign. In Jul 40 it moved to VIENNA as Intercept HQ SOUTH-EAST. In Jan 41 it moved to BUDAPEST, in Mar 41 to SOFIA, in Apr 41 to SALONIKA and on 1 May to ATHENS. In Spring 42 the title was changed to 4 Intercept HQ. In Oct 43 the HQ moved to BELGRADE, and in Dec 44 to GRAZ.

ii) Organisation.

4 Intercept HQ till early 42 consisted of:-

HQ (known as "Regt HQ") : Cmdr, AdjT, Ic officer, special service officer, adm personnel.

Evaluation Sec. : This was known first as Horchauswertestelle, later as Nachrichtenaufklaerungsauswertestelle. It had 9-10 officers, about 10 officials of officer rank, and about 80 ORs. It was divided into four sub-secs:-

Cryptography	(Entzifferung)
Evaluation	(Auswertung)
DF Evaluation	(Peilauswertung)
Translation	(Dolmetscher)

Two Fixed Intercept Stas (5 and 6.) : when the HQ was at VIENNA, these were at TULLN and GRAZ, later at ATHENS and SALONIKA.

Two Long-range Intercept Coys: These were numbered 3/N 7 and 3/N 57.

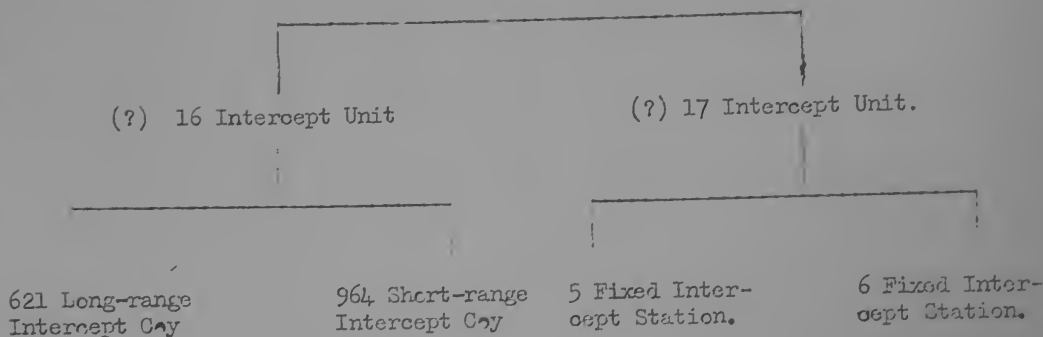
Organisation of each Fixed Intercept Sta and Long-range Intercept Coy was roughly similar. Each consisted of an HQ with one officer i/c Evaluation, and four platoons, each under an officer. Total personnel numbered about 220.

In early 42, 3/N 7 and 3/N 57 Long-range Intercept Coys were withdrawn; 3/N 57 was transferred to the Eastern Front, and probably 3/N 7 also. In autumn 43, when the HQ was at BELGRADE, two Intercept Coys came under command, 961 Short-range Intercept Coy and 621 Long-range Intercept Coy (for previous history see

sub-paras (c) and (d).

In Feb 44, two Intercept units (Nachrichtenaufklaerungs-abteilungen) numbered 16 and 17 were inserted in the chain of command between 4 Intercept HQ Evaluation Sec, and the intercept coys and the fixed stations. One of them (probably No. 16) assumed command of 621 Long-range Intercept Coy and 964 Short-range Intercept Coy, the other of 5 and 6 Fixed Intercept Stations.

4 Intercept HQ Evaluation Sec.



Each of the two Intercept Units consisted only of an HQ comprising a CO, Adjt, orderly room with WO, a technical inspector of officer's rank and a paymaster.

Traffic intercepted was passed by the intercept coys and the fixed intercept stations to the HQ who forwarded it to 4 Intercept HQ.

(iii) Traffic Covered.

This included British ME military traffic westwards to a line running North and South somewhere at a point on the North African coast; Turkish military traffic; Roumanina, and to a lesser extent, Bulgarian police traffic. PW is unable to give details of successes scored on any of this traffic, as he was not concerned with cryptography at the time.

CEBNIK and TITO traffic was covered by 964 and 621 Intercept Coys from autumn 43.

b) WOLLNY Intercept Pl (Zig WOLLNY).

This was formed and sent to BELGRADE in Jun 42. Its function was to cover CEBNIK and TITO traffic in YUGOSLAVIA only. In order to save time, it was made responsible to the OGH, to whom it used to send its reports direct, coming under 4 Intercept HQ only for administration and discipline.

In Feb 44, the Pl was dissolved and its personnel absorbed by 621 Long-range Intercept Coy which took over half of its work, the remaining half devolving on 964 Short-range Intercept Coy.

The Pl consisted of an offr and 20 ORs. It had a cryptographic section (1 official and four ORs) and an evaluation section, and operated eight receiving sets. The personnel was the best in YUGOSLAVIA for Serbo-Croat traffic.

Its reports were sent to the OKW; OKH; 4 Intercept HQ; C-in-C SERBIA; C-in-C CROATIA; and German Plenipotentiary General in CROATIA (Gen. GLAISE von HORSTENAU).

For work on YUGOSLAV traffic see para 4.

c) 964 Short-range Intercept Coy (NNAK 964)

This was formed in Apr 42 in RUSSIA and did intercept work for 2 Panzer Army. In Aug 43 it was brought to YUGOSLAVIA and put u/c of 4 Intercept HQ, and was subsequently at ATHENS and BELGRADE, in 45 at GRAZ. Its tasks in YUGOSLAVIA were two-fold: (i) to train for intercept of cryptographic work on British and American traffic, to prepare for work in the event of an invasion of YUGOSLAVIA, and (ii) to co-operate with the WOLLNY Pl in intercepting CETNIK and TITO traffic. When the WOLLNY Pl was disbanded in Oct 43, the Coy took over part of the work of that Pl.

Task (i) was performed by a staff of WT intercept operators and 30 interpreters (RT ops) who were stationed in small groups along the coast. They trained on British traffic in ITALY and exchanged information on results obtained with 7 Intercept HQ.

For work on YUGOSLAV traffic see para 4.

d) 621 Long-range Intercept Coy.

This Coy was reformed from the remnants of a Coy of the same number, part of which was captured in the Western Desert in 1942. It absorbed the personnel of the WOLLNY Pl in Oct 42, and set up its HQ at BELGRADE, coming under 4 Intercept HQ. Work was done, as by 964 Coy, on CETNIK and TITO traffic. It moved to GRAZ in 45.

e) "Meteorological Station" (Erdbeben und Wetterbeobachtungstelle.)

This intercept unit, apart from an interval from autumn 41 to Spring 42, was stationed at SOFIA. Its personnel, all soldiers, were ostensibly part of the German Legation and carried diplomatic passports. They all wore civilian clothes. The results of their interception was sent in reels of ticker tape by diplomatic bag flown to BERLIN, where they went straight to the OKW.

The station concerned itself only with diplomatic traffic. Stations covered included: LONDON, CAIRO, ANKARA, KUIBUSHEV and BERNE.

In Autumn 41, the unit moved to ATHENS, and back to SOFIA in Spring 42 as reception was better there. It was there beg 44.

f) 29 PG Div Intercept Sec in ITALY.

i) Organisation.

The Sec was known by its code name of RENATE. It

consisted of an NCO i/o four interpreters and one WT operator, and possessed two receiving sets for WT traffic and four for RT traffic.

ii) Traffic covered.

Only clear traffic was covered; according to an order issued in autumn 44, deciphering was forbidden below Army HQ level. As a result, divisional sections only monitored clear text, neglecting even partially enciphered traffic.

When 29 PG Div entered a new area, the first step was to find out what nets were operating immediately opposite. This was done by reading English messages referring to enemy (German) positions, with map references given in clear. (Only own locations were encoded). The approximate location of British stations could be readily inferred from the positions on the German side in which they displayed an interest. As frequencies were not altered, the nets facing 29 PG Div soon became familiar. It was soon possible to reconstruct a rough enemy order of battle on the divisional front. Simple code terms such as "big boys" for "tks" or "big sunray" for "divisional commander" were easy to read and intentions and movements could be deduced from sentences like: "Have your friends arrived?" or "Are the big boys ready to start?"

Information extracted was passed on to the Ic of 29 PG Div. Copies of intercepted traffic were sent to Corps HQ.

On one occasion about Xmas 44, while 29 PG Div was holding a sector on the SENIO with Div HQ at BIANBLANO, news of an impending British attack was deduced two hours before by overhearing an informal conversation between two British officers. As a result harassing fire was opened and the attack repulsed. The General publicly praised the monitor responsible, who received a decoration.

PW considers that the security of 56 Div and 70 Div was superior to that of 8 Indian Div and that the security maintained by 2 NZ Div was the best of all.

(g) Numbering of Intercept Coys.

Ref CSDIC/CMF/Y 30 para 2.E.II.d. PW stated that 964 Short-range Intercept Coy (MNAK 964) had always been a Short-range Intercept Coy and that all similar units bore numbers in the 900 series. Long-range Intercept Coys were numbered from 600 upwards.

4. WORK ON CETNIK AND TITO TRAFFIC.

PW knows a little about the work done by the WOLLNY Pl (Jun 42 - Oct 43) and by 964 Short-range Intercept Coy (Nov 43 till Jan 44), but as he is not a cryptographer his information should be taken with reserve.

Ciphers of both CETNIK and TITO Partisans were on the same lines.

CETNIK traffic was enciphered in what appears to have been single Playfair (a square of 5 x 5 = 25 letters) although PW described it as "einfacher Wierfel" (simple transposition). This was read (95% of traffic). Later on traffic was either in double Playfair - or as PW put it "Doppel-wierfel" (double transposition). This traffic, PW said, was read up to 55%.

TITO traffic was first in single Playfair (? or simple transposition) and later on in double Playfair (? or double transposition).

PW claims that both partisan forces changed their cipher systems because he had warned one of their numbers of the results obtained by the German intercept service. This made partisan comms a little more secure but some traffic continued to be read. (Cf CSDIC/CIF/Y 33 para 4).

5. PERSONALITIES.

(a) 4 Intercept HQ (GRAZ in Spring 45)

OC since Mar 44	Obstlt ANDRAE (Feb 45)
Former OsC	Obstlt HALDER (till Jun 41)
	Obstlt BOETZEL (till Feb 42, when he became Generalmajor and GOC all Intercept units at OKH)
	Oberst KUTSKY (till Jun 42, when he took cmd of an Army Sigs Regt)
	Oberst MUEGGE (till Mar 44, when he formed 7 Intercept HQ)
	Obstlt SEEMUELLER (till Mar 44, when he went to 7 Intercept HQ).
Adjt Former Adjts	Oblt FELDHAUS (Spring 45)
	Oblt OBERMAYER (till 42)
	Oblt NIESSEN (successor to OBERMAYER)
Special Service Officer at HQ.	Maj. BARAEJSKA (pronounced BARESHKA) A Viennese. Priest in civil life; a brilliant linguist. (May 44 transferred to FRANCE.)
OC Evaluation Sec	Maj. NUBER (transferred to OKH early 44)
i/c English Evaluation Sub Sec.	Lt. MOEREN (Spring 45)
i/c Turkish Evaluation Sub Sec.	Lt. TRAMSEN (Summer 44)

(b) WOLLNY Intercept Pl

OC till Oct 43 Lt. WOLLNY (transferred Summer 44 to a Corps Sigs Bn.)

(c) 964 Short-range Intercept Coy (Spring 45 at GRAZ).

OC	Oblt WOLLMER
in Coy	Lt MORAVETZ
in Coy	Inspektor SCHUSTER
<u>Serbo-Croat cryptographers</u> (transferred to ITALY and WEST Front by Spring 45)	Uffz LANGAS Obergefreiter MLADENCIC Obergefreiter MUELLER
<u>English interpreters.</u>	Uffz BUECHEL (at 7 Intercept HQ Apr 45) Uffz RUBLAK Obergefreiter BRATKE " FERNHOLZ " HENRICHS " SPECHT " ZITTEB. RT.

(d) 621 Long-range Intercept Coy (Spring 45 at GRAZ).

OC Oblt FELDHAUS (previously Adjnt at
4 Intercept HQ).
in Coy (cryptographer?) Lt. HAKLNI

(e) 16 and 17 Intercept Units.

OC 16 (?) Intercept Unit Hptm GROTZ (Spring 45). Took
(controlling 621 and command in 44. Previously till
964 Intercept Coys). 41 OC "Meteorological Station"
Intercept Unit at SOFIA.

Adjnt to above. Lt. KOCH (Spring 45).

OC 17(?) Intercept Hptm OPITZ (Autumn 44).
Unit (controlling
5 and 6 Fixed Inter-
cept Stations).

(f) "Meteorological Sta" SOFIA

OC Oblt SCHMIDT (Spring 44)

(W.S. VALERIE.)
Lt-Col.
Comd, CSDIC., C.M.F.

C.S.D.I.C.,
C.M.F.
21 Jun 45.